

ActNow BC Publishes Booklets for Families



The Province's new Healthy Living for Families Guides are full of tips and ideas on how children and youth can be more physically active, eat nutritiously and make healthy choices. The series of booklets are aimed at parents of students in grades K-3, 4-7 and 8-9, and at students in grades 10-12. Every student will be given the appropriate booklet, and all four booklets can be downloaded online. Read more.

Minister Bond joins former BC Lion Lui Passaglia and students from Waverley elementary in an exercise from the new ActNow BC family guide for healthy living.

HOT TOPIC

It's that time of year again – time for the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). FSA helps parents and educators determine how students are doing in reading, writing and math.

Only students in grades 4 and 7 write the tests, and the tests themselves take a total of five hours spread over a minimum of three days. That amounts to about two school days out of the first 10 years of a student's schooling.

We think it's time well spent. The tests provide useful information about a student's achievement. Parents receive an individual report that tells them if their child is not meeting expectations, meeting expectations or exceeding expectations in reading, writing and math.

Teachers can use the results as one more assessment tool to help them improve student achievement. School planning councils can use the results to help define school goals. And school districts can use the results to help them determine where to put their resources.

FSA is based on B.C.'s curriculum. In fact the tests are developed by B.C. teachers, and

reflect the goals of teachers' day-to-day classroom work.

With very limited exceptions, all students in Grades 4 and 7 are expected to write the FSA, though parents may ask a school principal to excuse a student in the event of a family emergency, lengthy illness or other extenuating circumstance. In fact these general requirements for student participation have not changed since the first administration of the FSA in 2000.

FSA testing – one more valuable tool for helping our students perform to their highest potential.



Salmon Forest
Written by David Suzuki and Sarah Ellis
Illustrated by Sheena Lott

Reading Corner

While Katie and her dad hike along the river bank, their father-daughter conversation outlines the lifecycle of the salmon and the ecosystem of the river. The text was written by famed environmentalist David Suzuki and the award-winning children's author Sarah Ellis. The illustrations, which are water-colours by Sheena Lott, are sure to enhance a young reader's budding appreciation for nature and environmental responsibility. This book is suitable for students in kindergarten and Grade 1.

Message from Minister Shirley Bond



Minister Shirley Bond
Minister of Education

In B.C., school districts, schools and educators often partner with other organizations and industry to give students access to expert information and hands-on experiences.

I recently met with Sheila Stenzel, the head of the Mineral Resources Education Program of British Columbia (MREPBC), and was impressed as I learned firsthand about her organization's efforts and the large network of teachers involved.

MREPBC brings the minerals industry and teachers together to help students learn more about geoscience in B.C. Educators interested in teaching about minerals, mining and geoscience often find the teaching resources available through MREPBC to be very useful.

In fact, MREPBC's school program is built upon a collection of materials written by teachers and consistent with provincial curriculum. These materials include books, DVDs, posters, and rock and mineral samples, and are put in kits complete with lessons to help educators teach minerals, mining and geoscience in every grade from kindergarten to Grade 12.

MREPBC also supports teachers and students through teacher workshops, field trips, newsletters, and its website. I encourage you to visit that website at www.bcminerals.ca online to see if the Mineral Resources Education program is right for your district, school or classroom.

